AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A content distribution method comprising:

measuring a first biometric feature of a person who requests a content distribution;

performing a first comparison between first information associated with said first biometric feature obtained by the measurement and second information associated with biometric features of registered users which have been previously registered;

distributing a content when a match is made as a result of said first comparison;

measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content distribution, a second biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a second comparison between third information associated with said second biometric feature obtained by the measurement and said first information; and

allowing said person who has requested a content reproduction to use said content when a match is made as a result of said second comparison.

2. (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said content distributed to a user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

3.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 1, wherein a

fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

4.   (canceled).

5.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising :

registering personal information, a user identification, and biometric feature information

regarding a user, in a registered user information table by making a connection there between;

obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content distribution and

attaining from said registered user information table a first biometric feature information of said

person based upon said user identification;

measuring biometric features of said person and obtaining from said biometric feature

second biometric feature information;

performing a comparison between said second biometric feature information and said

first biometric feature information read from said registered user information table;

distributing a required content only when a match is made as a result of said

comparison; A content distribution method according to claim 4, further comprising:

measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content

distribution step, a biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction and

attaining from said biometric feature third biometric feature information;

performing a comparison between said third biometric feature information and said

second biometric feature information; and

allowing said person who has requested a content reproduction to use said content only when a match is made as a result of said comparison.

6.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 5, wherein said content distributed to a user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

7.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 5, wherein a fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

8.   (original): A content distribution method comprising:

distributing a content to a user terminal and accumulating the content therein;

measuring at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content, a biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a comparison between biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by the measurement and biometric feature information of a registered user which has previously been registered; and

allowing reproduction of said content only when a match is made as a result of said comparison.

9.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 8,

further comprising:

restricting by a content distribution server, kinds of content to be distributed to said user terminal.

10.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 8, further comprising:
 transmitting to a content distribution server content utilization information including at least specific information regarding a person who has reproduced the content and information regarding said reproduced content.

11.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 10, further comprising: charging the user who has reproduced the content or providing a personal service for the user, according to said content utilization information sent to said content distribution server.

12.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 11, wherein said content distributed to a user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

13.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 11, wherein a fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

14.   (original): A content distribution method comprising:

connecting a portable user terminal to a shared service terminal which is connected via a network to a content distribution server, so as to input from a biometric feature input means equipped in said portable user terminal a biometric feature of a user who uses said portable user terminal;

performing a predetermined encryption processing on biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature inputted from said means;

transmitting said encrypted biometric feature information to said content distribution server via said shared service terminal;

performing a predetermined decryption procession on said encrypted biometric feature information received by said content distribution server;

performing a comparison between said encrypted biometric feature information and biometric feature information of a registered user which has previously been registered; and

distributing a content to said shared service terminal only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

15.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 14, wherein said content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

16.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 14, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

17.   (previously presented): A content distribution method comprising:

registering a user identification to identify a user and biometric feature information of the

user in a registered user information table by making a connection there between, and registering

terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal and said user identification in a terminal

personalization setup data table by making a connection there between;

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

reading a user identification of said person from said registered user information table

according to biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by

said measurement;

reading terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization

setup data table, according to said user identification read from said registered user information

table; and

personalizing said user terminal used by said person, according to said terminal setup

data.

18.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 17,

wherein a content distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software

for video game, application software, and news items.

19.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein a

fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

20.   (previously presented): A content distribution method comprising:

registering a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and a terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal in a terminal personalization setup data table, by making a connection therebetween;

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

reading a user identification and a biometric feature identification of said person from said registered user information table, according to biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by said measurement;

reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification read from said registered user information table, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

personalizing a user terminal used by said person, according to said terminal setup data.

21.   (previously presented): A content distribution method according to claim 20, wherein said content distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

22.   (original):   A content distribution method according to claim 20, wherein a fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

23.   (currently amended): A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said content distribution server includes:

a registered user information table in which specific personal information, a user

identification, and biometric feature information regarding a user are registered by making a

connection therebetween, said personal information, user identification, and biometric feature

information being inputted from said user terminal;

first comparing means for reading, according to a user identification of a person who

requests a content distribution inputted from said user terminal, first biometric feature

information of said person from said registered user information table, for requesting said person

to input second biometric feature information, and for performing a comparison between said

second biometric feature information inputted from said user terminal in response to said input

request and said first biometric feature information read from said table; ~~and~~

content distribution means for distributing a required content to said user terminal only

when match is made as a result of said comparison;

<u>biometric feature storage means for storing third biometric feature information of a

registered user inputted at the time of registration to said registered user information table;</u>

<u>content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content

distributed from said content distribution means; and</u>

<u>second comparing means for performing a comparison between fourth biometric feature

information of a person who requests a content reproduction which has been inputted from said

biometric feature input means and said third biometric feature information of said registered user</u>

stored in said biometric feature storage means, and for allowing said content

accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the distributed content only when a match is

made as a result of said comparison.

24.   (cancelled):

25.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 2423,

wherein said content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data,

software for a video game, application software, and news items.

26.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 2423,

wherein a fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

27.   (original):   A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said user terminal comprises:

biometric feature storage means for storing first biometric feature information of a

registered user inputted from said biometric feature input means;

content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content

distributed from said content distribution means; and

comparing means for performing a comparison between second biometric feature information of a person who requests a content reproduction inputted from said biometric feature input means and said first biometric feature information stored in said biometric feature storage means, and for allowing said content accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the distributed content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

28.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 27, wherein said content distribution server restricts kinds of content to be distributed to said user terminal.

29.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 27, wherein said user terminal transmits to said content distribution server content utilization information including at least specific information regarding a person who has reproduced the content and information regarding said reproduced content.

30.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 29, wherein said content distribution server charges the user who has reproduced the content or provides a personal service for the user, according to said content utilization information sent from said user terminal.

31.   (previously presented): A content distribution system according to claim 30, wherein said content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

32.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 30, wherein a fingerprint is used as said biometric feature.

33.   (original):   A content distribution system comprising:

a content distribution server;

a shared service terminal connected via a network to said content distribution server; and

a portable user terminal including a biometric feature input means connectable to said shared service terminal;

wherein said portable user terminal performs a predetermined encryption processing on a user's biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature inputted from said biometric feature input means and transmits said encrypted biometric feature information to said content distribution server via said shared service terminal, and

wherein said content distribution server performs a predetermined decryption processing on said encrypted biometric feature information received from said portable user terminal via said shared service terminal, performs a comparison between said encrypted biometric feature information and biometric feature information of a registered user which has previously been registered, and distributes a content to said shared service terminal only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

34.   (previously presented): A content distribution system according to claim 33, wherein said content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

35.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 33, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

36.   (previously presented): A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network, wherein said content distribution server includes:

a registered user information table in which a user identification to identify a user and the user's biometric feature information are registered by making a connection there between, said user identification and biometric feature information being inputted from said user terminal;

a terminal personalization setup data table in which terminal setup data to personalize said user terminal and said user identification are registered by making a connection there between;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content distribution from said registered user information table according to biometric feature information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and for reading, according to said user identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal,

and wherein said user terminal includes:

terminal personalization setup means for personalizing said user terminal according to said terminal setup data received from said terminal personalization designating means.

37.   (previously presented): A content distribution system according to claim 36, wherein said content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for video game, application software, and news items.

38.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 36, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

39.   (original):   A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network, wherein said content distribution server includes:

a terminal personalization setup data table in which a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal are registered by making a connection there between, said user identification, biometric feature information, biometric feature identification, and terminal setup data being inputted from said user terminal;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification and biometric feature information of a person who requests a content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table

according to biometric feature information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and

for reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal

setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

      terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal,

and wherein said user terminal includes:

      terminal personalization setup means for personalizing said user terminal according to

said terminal setup data received from said terminal personalization designating means.

      40.   (previously presented): A content distribution system according to claim 39,

wherein said content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data,

software for a video game, application software, and news items.

      41.   (original):   A content distribution system according to claim 39, wherein said

biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

      42.   (original): A content distribution server to which at least one user terminal is

connected via a network, comprising:

      a registered user information table in which specific personal information, a user

identification, and biometric feature information regarding a user are registered by making a

connection there between, said personal information, user identification, and biometric feature

information being inputted from said user terminal;

comparing means for reading, according to a user identification of a person who requests a content distribution inputted from said user terminal, first biometric feature information of said person from said registered user information table, for requesting said person to input second biometric feature information, and for performing a comparison between said second biometric feature information inputted from said user terminal in response to said input request and said first biometric feature information read from said table; and

content distribution means for distributing a required content to said user terminal only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

43.   (original):   A content distribution server according to claim 42, further comprising means for restricting kinds of content to be distributed to said user terminal.

44.   (original):   A content distribution server according to claim 42, further comprising a user utilization information administration means for charging the user who has reproduced the content or for providing a personal service for the user, according to content utilization information sent from said user terminal.

45.   (previously presented): A content distribution server according to claim 42, wherein said content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

46.   (original):   A content distribution server according to claim 42, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

47.   (previously presented): A content distribution server to which at least one user

terminal is connected via a network, comprising:

a registered user information table in which a user identification to identify a user and the

user's biometric feature information are registered by making a connection there between, said

user identification and biometric feature information being inputted from said user terminal;

a terminal personalization setup data table in which terminal setup data to personalize

said user terminal and said user identification are registered by making a connection there

between;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content

distribution from said registered user information table according to biometric feature

information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and for reading, according to said

user identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization

setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal.

48.   (previously presented):   A content distribution server according to claim 47,

wherein said content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data,

software for a video game, application software, and news items.

49.   (original):   A content distribution server according to claim 47, wherein said

biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

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50.   (original):   A content distribution server to which at least one user terminal is connected, comprising:

a terminal personalization setup data table in which a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal are registered by making a connection there between, said user identification, biometric feature information, biometric feature identification, and terminal setup data being inputted from said user terminal;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification and biometric feature information of a person who requests a content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table according to biometric feature information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and for reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal.

51.   (previously presented): A content distribution server according to claim 50, wherein said content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

52.   (original):   A content distribution server according to claim 50, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

53.   (original):   A user terminal including a biometric feature input means connected via a network to a content distribution server, comprising:

fingerprint-feature storage means for, at the time of registration to said content distribution server, storing user's biometric feature information inputted from said biometric feature input means;

content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content distributed from said content distribution server; and

comparing means for performing a comparison between biometric feature information of a person who requests a content reproduction which has been inputted from said biometric feature input means and said user's biometric feature information stored in said biometric feature storage means, and for allowing said content accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the distributed content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

54.   (original):   A user terminal according to claim 53, further comprising a content utilization transmission means for transmitting to said content distribution server, content utilization information including at least specific information regarding a person who has reproduced the content and information regarding said reproduced content.

55.   (previously presented): A user terminal according to claim 54, wherein said distributed content includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application software, and news items.

56.   (original):   A user terminal according to claim 54, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

57.   (original):   A computer readable medium having computer readable program

code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a content distribution system,

said code means implemented on a content distribution server and a user terminal, and

comprising instructions for :

measuring a first biometric feature of a person who requests a content distribution;

performing a first comparison between first information associated with said first

biometric feature obtained by the measurement and second information associated with

biometric features of registered users which have been previously registered;

distributing a content only when match is made as a result of said first comparison;

measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content

distribution step, a second biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a second comparison between third information associated with said second

biometric feature obtained by the measurement and said first information; and

allowing reproduction of said content only when match is made as a result of said second

comparison.

58.   (original): A computer readable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a user terminal in a content distribution system, said code means comprising instructions for:

accumulating a content previously distributed;

requiring a person who requests a content reproduction, to input a biometric feature at the time of reproduction, to input a biometric feature at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content and for performing a comparing processing for comparing biometric feature information of said person inputted in response to said input request and biometric feature information of a registered user previously registered; and

allowing reproduction of said accumulated content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

59.   (previously presented): A computer readable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a content distribution system, said code means comprising instructions for :

registering a user identification to identify a user and biometric feature information of the user in a registered user information table by making a connection there between, and for registering terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal and said user identification in a terminal personalization setup data table by making a connection there between;

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

acquiring a user identification of said person from said registered user information table according to biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by said measurement;

reading terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table, according to said user identification, and fop sending said terminal setup data; and

personalizing a user's own terminal according to said terminal setup data sent from said content distribution server.

60.   (previously presented): A computer readable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a content distribution system, said code means implemented on a content distribution server and a user terminal comprising instructions for :

registering a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal by making a connection there between;

acquiring a user identification and biometric feature information of a person who requests a content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table according to biometric feature information of said person obtained by measuring said person's biometric features;

reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table, and for sending said terminal setup data; and

personalizing said person's own terminal according to said terminal setup data received from said content distribution server content previously distributed;

requiring a person who requests a content reproduction, to input a biometric feature at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content and for performing a comparing processing for comparing biometric feature information of said person inputted in response to said input request and biometric feature information of a registered user previously registered; and

allowing reproduction of said accumulated content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

61. (original):   A content distribution method comprising:

measuring a first biometric feature of a person who requests a content distribution;

performing a first comparison between said first biometric feature obtained by the measurement and biometric features of registered users which have been previously registered;

distributing a content when a match is made as a result of said first comparison;

measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content distribution, a second biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a second comparison between the second biometric feature obtained by the measurement and the first biometric feature; and

allowing said person who has requested a content reproduction to use said content when a match is made as a result of said second comparison.